(b) Approx. 1,50,000 Indian nationals have been repatriated from Iraq and Kuwait. According to latest estimates, there are still an estimated 12,000 to 14,000 Indian nationals in Kuwait who have opted to stay back. There are also another 4,000 persons approx. in Iraq.

(c) Flights would be arranged on a need basis to bring them back to India. Under present prevailing conditions, transfer of properties including bank accounts is not possible.

Air pollution

736 SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi's auto pollution is creating winter fog;

(b) whether there has been any decrease in overall air pollution during last three years and if so, detils thereof indicating the steps that have helped most; and

(c) what steps are proposed to meet the situation in Delhi and other cities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Winter fog is a natural phenomenon caused by meteorological conditions. Emissions from vehicles however, contribute significantly to the pollution load in Delhi;

(b) There is a declining trend in the annual mean values of the ambient levels of suspended particulate matter in the last three years, primarily because the emissions from three thermal power plants in Delhi are now meeting the standards. The standards for vehicular emissions have come into effect from March 1, 1990 in Delhi and are being enforced; and action is being taken by the Central Pollution Control Board to control emissions from major industrial units.

(c) Steps proposed to control air pollution in Delhi and other cities are as follows:

(i) Mass emission standards for vehicles have been notified and will come into effect from April, 1991 for petrol driven vehicles and April, 1992 for diesel driven vehicles.

(ii) The petroleum industry has been asked to reduce the lead content in petrol supplied to Delhi and bring it down to 0.15 gramms per litre by April, 1993.

(iii) The Government has issued a notification on Dec. 6, 1990 that for vehicles manufactured after April 1, 1991 every manufacturer of motor vehicles shall submit the prototype of the vehicles to be manufactured for test by an agency specified by the Central Government for certification to the compliance of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Rules, including vehicular emission standards.

Talks with U.S. Secretary of State about strain on Indian economy caused by Gulf crisis

737. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the then Minister of External Affairs, during his visit to the US in connection with UN General Assembly meeting towards the end of September, 1990 informed the US Secretary of State about the extent of strain caused on Indian economy by the recent Gulf crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what was the US Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) In the meetings with the US Secretary of State, the then Exter-

nal Affairs Minister outlined the adverse economic impact of the Gulf crisis on the Indian economy. He pointed out that Indian had been affected severely due to increase in the price of oil, cut-off in remittances and loss of exports. The adverse impact was not quantified. No specific request was made for aid from the US. Mr. Baker expressed sympathy with Indian's situation and observed that the adverse economic impact on the economies of several countries (including India) had to be addressed by the international community.

Memorandum to the Indian High Commission, Dhaka to ban an Encylopaedia

738 SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE·
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state·

(a) whether leaders of Islamic Student's Federation of Bangladesh, presented a memorandum to the Indian High Commission in Dhaka on the 24th Septmeber, 1990 urging to ban an Encyclopaedia published by a Ne Delhi firm;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA)· (a) to (c) The Indian High Commission in Dhaka received sveeral represenations, including one on 24 September 1990 from the Islamic Chhatra Shibit, urging the Government of India to improve a ban on "Biswakosh", an encyclopaedia in Bengali published by B R Publishing Corporation, New Delhi According to these representation, one volume of the encyclopaedia contained material which was offensive to Muslim sentiments. Government understand that when this fact was brought to the notice of the publishers of encyclopaedia, they withdrew it from circulation.

Arson and Looting in Kuwait

739. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the National Herald of September 21, 1990 under the caption "Arson, looting on in Kuwait";

(b) if so, the number of Indians who were subjected to such looting and harassment; and what are the details of such lootings; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to evacuate them from Kuwait?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the context of the general deterioration in law and order situation, many, including some Indian nationals were subjected to such looting and harassment: this included theft of cash, jewellery and movable property, break-ins and forcible entry into homes.

(c) Government of India has taken all steps necessary to repatriate those who wished to leave About 1,50,000 have been repatriated

Pakistan's nuclear capability

740 SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD·

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report enttled